



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: March 28, 2002 (02-13)

Contact: Tonia Buell (360) 586-8482
or mobile (360) 481-6214

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Hearing set for quarantine on Citrus Longhorned Beetle

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture is holding a hearing to take public comment on the Longhorned Beetle quarantine currently in effect in parts of Tukwila.

The public hearing will be held Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Showalter Middle School, 4628 S. 144th Street, Tukwila. Department of Agriculture officials will give a brief presentation and then take comments from the public.

The quarantine was established last November to help prevent the spread of the Citrus Longhorned Beetle in Washington. The quarantine area extends about 1/2 mile around the site where three Citrus Longhorned Beetles were captured and where entomologists found evidence that five beetles escaped (Macadam Road S. and S. 144th in Tukwila). The quarantine prohibits moving the beetle or any potentially infested plant material out of the quarantine area including certain trees, tree prunings, deadwood, and firewood.

The department is holding the public hearing as part of the formal process to put the quarantine in place on a continuing basis. A copy of the quarantine language is available in Tukwila at Foster Library and City Hall and on the department's Web site.

Written comments on the quarantine may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax through April 10. Comments are to be sent to Clinton Campbell at Pest Program, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560 or e-mail: pestprogram@agr.wa.gov or fax: (360) 902-2094.

The Citrus Longhorned Beetle is a serious insect pest that attacks and eventually kills hardwood trees. It is closely related to the Asian longhorned beetle that has caused thousands of trees to be destroyed in New York City and Chicago. Information on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle is available on the Department of Agriculture's Web site at www.wa.gov/agr/CitrusLHBeetle.htm. The public can also call the department's toll-free hotline at 1-800-443-6684.

###